

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2006.

Dr. DAVID A. SCHWARTZ,
Director, National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences,
Research Triangle Park, NC.

DEAR DR. SCHWARTZ: We are writing to encourage you to ensure the continued focus of the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) on preventable health risks associated with environmental sources and exposures, as you develop a program of greater relevance to human disease. An emphasis on discovering the role of environmental exposures in human health, disease, and disabilities will increase the importance of your proposed "roadmap" for NIEHS. We look forward to the future support and growth of the following established initiatives:

RESEARCH ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

Environmental exposures, and often diseases, occur with disproportionate impact on the health and well-being of local communities, particularly those already impacted by other risk factors for health disparities. Thus, continuing the focus of NIEHS support for community-based research will serve the health needs of the American public. It will also contribute to increased knowledge of acquired factors in complex situations involving other preventable risks that too often track with economic and political inequalities. The men, women, and children of unfairly impacted communities often must work, live, play, and attend school in environments that are contaminated at levels that exceed national averages, and sometimes even exceed legal limits, but often lack the resources to initiate scientific investigations. NIEHS research and outreach provides critical data that supports strategies to prevent or treat disease and disabilities among these communities, as well as regulatory action to identify contamination sources for targeted clean up.

RESEARCH ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT

Chronic diseases that show up later in life are frequently the result of preventable environmental exposures to pesticides, air pollution, and many other exposures that occur early in life. For this reason, continued support for research programs focused on children's health and environmental contaminants is a priority for our constituents and for the future of America's health. Examples of this kind of research currently supported by NIEHS include: pesticide impacts on cancer and brain development among children of agriculture communities; air pollution impacts on asthma and allergies among inner city children; and, industrial pollution impacts on learning and behavior among school children.

TIMELY AND COMPLETE REPORT ON
CARCINOGENS

In order to efficiently manage environmental health risks like chemicals, we must have accurate information on their toxicity. The Report on Carcinogens (RoC) is a biannual, congressionally mandated report that scientifically evaluates the scientific evidence to compile a list of all substances known or suspected to cause human cancers and to which Americans are exposed. The RoC is a reference standard for the private sector, for certain legislation, and is even used overseas as an authoritative text on carcinogens. The timely release of this critical Report is a priority for state and federal regulators, for international regulatory bodies, for communities, and for Members of Congress.

Sustaining these strategic initiatives in connection with your new initiatives will

contribute to the success of new research directions at NIEHS, and ensure that research findings on environmental factors are fully translated into protecting public health. We look forward to working with you to properly fund and support these programs.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich.
Louis Capps.
Rush Holt.
Bart Gordon.
Barbara Lee.
James E. Clyburn.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN LOWERY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan Lowery of Pattonsburg, Missouri. Over the past few months, Jonathan has served as my office intern. In aiding the day to day operations of the office, he has worked with enthusiasm and dedication. His efforts to represent my office have been commended by both my staff and our constituents.

As a student at Northwest Missouri State University, Jonathan has been pursuing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration and came to Washington, DC, this summer through the Stennis Congressional Intern Program. His ambition and interest in politics and government have been evident from the day he started his internship. He has a true commitment to the workings of government and his enthusiasm in helping the people of the 6th District is something to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jonathan Lowery. He has been great to have in the office and his efforts are much appreciated. I wish him the best and that his future ambitions in the law and public service will be fulfilled. He will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking him for all of his hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

H.J. RES. 88, THE "MARRIAGE
PROTECTION AMENDMENT"

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2006, I voted against passage of H.J. Res. 88, a constitutional amendment to bar same-sex marriages.

The text of H.J. Res. 88, the Marriage Protection Amendment, reads as follows: "Marriage in the United States shall consist solely of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

Marriage and family law have traditionally been regulated by state, rather than federal, laws. Current federal law, as well as some

state laws, already prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Further, in 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA, which prohibits federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows individual states to refuse to recognize such marriages performed in other states.

Some believe the Marriage Protection Amendment is necessary to strengthen the institution of marriage. While the amendment's supporters claim that it simply would remove the issue of same sex marriage from the courts, the text of the amendment also would remove decision making authority from Congress and state legislatures, where marriage and family law have traditionally been regulated.

My personal belief is that marriage is a union between a man and a woman, but that the regulation of marriage should be left to the states.

In 2004, Vice President DICK CHENEY spoke on the subject of a constitutional marriage amendment during a campaign appearance in Davenport, Iowa, when he said: The question that comes up with the issue of marriage is what kind of official sanction or approval is going to be granted by government? Historically, that's been a relationship that has been handled by the states. The states have made that fundamental decision of what constitutes a marriage. He also went on to say that with respect to the question of relationships, my general view is freedom means freedom for everyone.

I agree with Vice President CHENEY's remarks, and voted against the Marriage Protection Amendment on the House floor. This amendment would break sharply from our nation's commitment to, and constitutional tradition of, protecting individual rights. The truth is—and the proponents of this Amendment know it—there was not any chance for this to become a Constitutional Amendment. Just last month the Senate refused to pass it! The House Amendment was simply another effort by certain people to advance their political agenda. I support equal rights for all Americans. I am committed to a nation in which all Americans can share equally in the protections of the law.

IN HONOR OF MARTHA LOIS
MCGINNIS CAMERON NORTON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements and promise of Martha Lois McGinnis Cameron Norton, or just simply Martha. I have known Martha much of my life as the "go to woman" in local elections. She is one of those Americans who embodies the meaning of the word citizenship; who works always to strengthen the quality of our democracy. Martha was born in Washington, Iowa, in 1922. She grew up on a farm and spent her childhood raising corn, tending hogs, and seeing to all the other chores of an Iowa farm girl. But being from Washington, she had politics in her blood. As a child she saw both President Hoover and Governor Roosevelt speak during the 1932 presidential campaign. Four years later she worked her

first of many campaigns when she helped re-elect President Roosevelt.

While Martha built a remarkable professional career as a research scientist and educator, it is her relentless political activism that I wish to focus on today. That activism began in earnest in 1946 when Martha joined a local campaign to save San Francisco's landmark cable car system. In 1956, she worked to re-elect President Eisenhower. In 1959, she helped run her father's successful write-in campaign to become Mayor of her hometown.

In 1962 Martha moved to Monterey and hasn't stopped since. She soon worked on a variety of local races, including several of my father's, who was then serving in the California State Senate. In the late '60s, she worked on the coastal protection campaign that culminated in the voters 1972 adoption of the landmark Coastal Act. That same year Martha became a Democrat. As a young woman, she registered Republican on the advice of her mother who said that it was the Republicans who secured the vote for women. But she had become disenchanted with the direction that the Republican Party had taken, especially in civil rights, and followed Leon Panetta in making the switch.

In 1976, Martha worked as a precinct walker in Leon Panetta's successful race against Congressman Burt Talcott. She also worked on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign, coordinating more than 100 volunteers from their teens into their 70s. In the '80s, she helped elect two pivotal Monterey County Supervisors, Sam Karas and Karin Strasser Kauffman. In 1996 she volunteered once again for Karin, in her primary race for the local state Assembly seat. While Karin lost the race, Martha felt that democrat Fred Keeley went on to be a great Assemblymember. And all along, Martha was instrumental in my own campaigns for local, state, and federal office.

Martha truly is the tireless volunteer. In addition to her campaign work, Martha has devoted countless hours to many different boards, commissions, and other community organizations, including the MPUSD school board, the Highway 68 committee, the Toxic Waste committee for Fort Ord, several League of Women Voters committees, and local Democratic committees and clubs. Martha also served several stints as the President of the Peninsula Women's Democratic Club. She has worked tirelessly over the years to register voters and encourage participation in the political process. And it is this grass roots commitment to making democracy work that deserves the attention of this House because it is the people like Martha across this country that keep our democracy alive and well.

CONGRATULATING MELISSA
BROWN—SELECTED AS GRAND
PRIZE WINNER IN OLIVE GAR-
DEN'S NATIONAL ESSAY CON-
TEST

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a winning essay written by a very special constituent, 10th grade student

Melissa Brown, a resident of Broomall, Pennsylvania.

Melissa's essay was chosen from nearly 11,000 entries written by students in first through 12th grade who were asked to "describe how a person or experience has made an important impact on your life."

In her essay, Melissa describes the many lessons she has learned from her brother, Josh. Her words are not only inspirational, but powerful in a message we can all take to heart. This young writer captures what family means for so many of us—love, acceptance and learning from one another. The text of her essay follows:

When people are asked, who has influenced you most in your life, most have to think about it. For me, I could answer that question in less than a second. My little brother Josh, without a doubt, has influenced me more than anyone.

Josh has Down Syndrome, which is a genetic disorder. It makes him do some things a little slower than most kids his age. But Josh is an exceptional child. He is extremely smart. He knows every little detail about every single animal, ever. He loves collecting anything that is long and skinny and giving them names and personalities. His memory is amazing and he learned all his letters, and some words, by the time he was 2 years old. He also reads fluently and does well in school. He has overcome many obstacles to really be a success.

Josh is the most loving and open person you will ever meet. He greets you with a smile that lights up a room. Josh isn't like most people who look at your appearance and judge you by that. He looks straight into your heart and will open his arms to you.

Living with Josh has taught me numerous things. The main thing he's taught me is to not judge a book by its cover. I need to look inside a person and find out what they're like inside before I make assumptions. Josh has made me sensitive to people that are less fortunate than I am. I realize I've been blessed and need to share that with others who need it. He's taught me that when I see people who are different, I shouldn't stare but should smile at them. One little smile can make a person's day. I've also learned not take life so seriously. Josh is one of those people who finds pleasure in little things. So I need to be able to find the good things in life and take pleasure in little things.

When people first see Josh, they may think that he looks weird or that he's just a little brother. Well, he's neither of those. He is an adorable little 11-year-old who is bounding with energy and love. He also is the one who makes me laugh, gives me support and is my best friend. I tell people that he is the person who has inspired me most in my life.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA
GROW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Grow for her years of service as a high school teacher and Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America advisor.

Patricia earned a Bachelor's Degree in Homemaking Education from Utah State University, and then a Master's in Occupational Administration at Northern Arizona University.

After graduating, she moved to Overton, Nevada, and began her teaching career as a substitute. She continued substitute teaching for eight years until she became the full-time Home Economics teacher at Moapa Valley High School.

For the past thirty years, Patricia has educated high school students and advised her chapter of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, FCCLA. Patricia followed the growth of the community from the old high school to the new one, and, upon the expansion of the Home Economics program, she became the instructor for the Independent Living and Child Development and the Fashion and Quilting courses. Her hard work has been instrumental in bringing the program's courses to full enrollment.

Patricia has won a number of awards for her service to students, including Outstanding Service to Vocational Education in 1986, Outstanding Faculty for 1992–1993, the Nevada Vocational Association Award of Service in 1996, and Educator of the Year for 1999–2000. She is retiring this year after three decades of teaching.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patricia Grow for her years of service as an educator in Nevada. Education is truly an admirable career, and I commend her dedication to Nevada's youth. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

CLIMATE CHANGE: UNDER-
STANDING THE DEGREE OF THE
PROBLEM?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I made the attached statement in the House Government Reform Committee regarding global warming on July 20, 2006.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE DENNIS J. KUCINICH, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this important hearing on Climate Change, the first such substantive hearing in the House in recent memory. If we are to successfully deal with global warming, it cannot be a partisan issue. It will require our full attention and an inestimable share of our resources, which requires united leadership. This hearing, therefore, is a major step in the right direction. However, I was disappointed to hear the Administration's testimony today which is decidedly partisan. Indeed it continues to try to put a happy face on bad policies and take credit for work it has not done.

A good place to start is the Administration's claim to have reduced greenhouse gas "intensity" during its tenure. Efficiency gains make the "intensity" go down anyway. Moreover, this deceptive rhetorical device diverts attention from its failure to set a goal for greenhouse gas emissions reductions that is consistent with that which is justified by the current science. California has done so, calling for an 80 percent reduction. Holland is now cutting emissions by 80 percent in 40 years. Tony Blair has committed the UK to cutting emissions by 60 percent in 50 years. Germany has obligated itself to cuts of 50 percent in 50 years. Several months ago, French President Chirac called on the entire industrial world to cut emissions 75 percent by 2050.